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AUSTRALIA. 21 Feb.—Japanese Peace Treaty. During the debate on the Bill to ratify the treaty, Dr Evatt, Opposition leader, expressed the Labour Party's strong opposition to the treaty. He maintained that to allow Japanese rearmament was tantamount to risking Australia's future security, and he declared that the restoration of militarist domination was the real aim of many in power in Japan and that it was a deadly illusion to suppose that Japan would always range her armaments on the side of the western democracies. He considered that the binding agreement made on Japan's surrender should be adhered to.

Pacific Security Pact. Mr Casey, Minister for External Affairs, introduced into the House of Representatives the Bill to approve the security treaty between the United States, Australia, and New Zealand. He said that the Government believed that the pact, while not providing a complete and final answer to the maintenance of peace and security in the Pacific, nevertheless marked a great advance in that direction. It was not intended to replace the general system of world security which the United Nations had been designed to establish nor would it supersede defence arrangements within the British Commonwealth.

Defence. Mr McBride, Defence Minister, told the House that the total of funds so far allocated in the three-year programme was £A559 m., but he declared that the Government had adopted the objective of providing for the material requirements of its forces to be raised on mobilization and he forecast a defence programme with an ultimate cost of £A.885 m.

27 Feb.—Japanese Peace Treaty. The Bill to ratify the Treaty was passed in the House of Representatives by 54 votes to 46.

28 Feb.—Manus Island. Dr Evatt, Opposition leader, explained to the House why the Chifflery Government had refused to surrender to the United States sovereignty over the naval air base at Manus in the Admiralty Islands. He said that the Government had never objected to the United States using Manus as part of a wide regional defence pact to which the whole British Commonwealth would be party and under which Australia would have reciprocal rights in U.S. bases. The United States had been offered the use of any Australian base on condition that Australia would have the same rights in U.S. bases under a regional security pact. Australian Labour recognized U.S. leadership in the Pacific but required to be treated as a partner and not a satellite.

3 Mar.—Defence. Mr Francis, the Minister for the Army, announced that Britain and Australia had decided to standardize their army equipment, organization, and techniques. He said that the total strength of ground forces would be doubled by 1953 to 124,900. Australia's role in any future war would be: (1) to provide forces for possible U.N. commitments, including a regional Pacific arrangement; (2) to co-operate in British Commonwealth defence; and (3) to provide for the local defence of Australia and her territories.

4 Mar.—Pacific Security Pact. The Bill to approve the security treaty between the United States, Australia, and New Zealand was read for a second time in the House of Representatives without a division and passed all its remaining stages.

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Manus Island. During the debate Mr Casey, Minister for External Affairs, said that Mr Evatt's statement that Australia had been asked by the United States to surrender her sovereignty over Manus Island was not true. America had not asked for sovereignty but had suggested informally in 1946, through the Secretary of State, that America might share long-term rights in the Manus base with Australia. Mr Casey deplored the refusal to accept such a partnership. He revealed that in April and May 1946 a conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers had rejected, as it had done previously, an American challenge to British sovereignty over eighteen or twenty islands in the Pacific.

AUSTRIA. 21 Feb.—Soviet Banning of Newspapers. Reports reaching Vienna from Lower Austria said that the local Soviet commanders in St Pölten and Krems had banned the sale of several newspapers and periodicals, including not only the Socialist People's Party and V.D.U. publications but also Swiss and German illustrated magazines. No reason had been given for the ban which was stated to be permanent.

25 Feb.—German Property in Austria. The Government issued a communiqué in which it questioned the right assumed by the Soviet Government to interpret unilaterally the meaning of the words 'German property in Austria' and suggested that an impartial body be asked to give an interpretation.

28 Feb.—Three-Power statement on a peace treaty (see *Great Britain*).

2 Mar.—U.S.S.R. During speeches in the Soviet zone, Herr Helmer and Herr Graf, respectively Minister and State Secretary of the Interior, charged the Soviet Union with using their 'peace' propaganda and their attacks on western rearmament as camouflage for their own imperialism and militarization policy. Herr Helmer named various places in the Soviet zone where Russian stockpiling of arms was in progress and said that no fewer than 220 tanks had taken part in recent Russian manoeuvres at Amstetten.

5 Mar.—Starhemberg Estates. Following the adoption by Parliament of a measure empowering the Government to suspend operation for an indefinite period of any court's decision to restore requesstrated property to its owner, the Government announced its decision to suspend operation of the court's decision of December 1951 relating to the Starhemberg estates.

BRITISH WEST AFRICA. 5 Mar.—Gold Coast. Dr Kwame Nkrumah, Leader of Government Business, became Prime Minister. The change was announced by the Governor who said that the Prime Minister would rank in Cabinet precedence immediately after the Governor or Officer Administering the Government, and before the three *ex-officio* Ministers. The necessary amendment to the constitution would be made.

BULGARIA. 22 Feb.—Turkey. The Government sent a Note to

Bulgaria (*continued*)

Turkey protesting against her adherence to the North Atlantic Treaty which it described as a 'direct threat' to Bulgaria.

CHINA. 23 Feb.—Formosa. Peking Radio quoted an article by Gen. Nieh Jung-chen, Deputy Chief of Staff, in which he said 'We shall liberate our territory of Taiwan'. He also said that Chinese and Russian common objectives included the forestalling of new Japanese aggression, and that they would never tolerate the 'illegal' Japanese peace treaty nor the U.S.-Japanese security pact.

DENMARK. 4 Mar.—N.A.T.O. Admiral McCormick, Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, arrived in Copenhagen in the course of a tour of N.A.T.O. countries.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. 4 Mar.—U.S.S.R. The Government announced its intention of complaining to the Security Council that five Russian submarines had violated its territorial waters at a point eighty miles from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

ECUADOR. 3 Mar.—It was announced in Quito that a naval revolt which had broken out that day in the Pacific port of Guayaquil had been crushed by loyal forces. A number of marines and civilians, described as supporters of the Opposition leader, Carlos Guevera, had been arrested.

EGYPT. 22 Feb.—The British military authorities lifted restrictions on the passage by road in and out of the Canal Zone during daylight.

An Egyptian was killed in Port Said when Mauritian troops opened fire on a group inside a Naafi compound.

23 Feb.—Four Egyptians were believed to have been wounded when, after challenging them, a British patrol fired at a group of men suspected of sabotage on the railway line ten miles south of Port Said.

U.S.S.R.: Barter Agreement. The Prime Minister announced the conclusion of an agreement with the Soviet Union under which 500,000 cantars of Egyptian cotton would be bartered for 200,000 tons of Russian wheat.

24 Feb.—Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Sir Zafrullah Khan, arrived in Cairo on a four-day visit.

25 Feb.—Great Britain. Announcing in a broadcast that Anglo-Egyptian negotiations would reopen on 1 March, the Prime Minister, Aly Maher Pasha, said that the people were unanimous that evacuation and the unity of the Nile Valley must be realized and he would not negotiate over the principle but on the means of achieving these aims.

27 Feb.—Sir Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan Foreign Minister, stated in Cairo that the Anglo-Egyptian dispute must be resolved speedily in a manner satisfactory to both parties, and he declared that a solution of at least the basic problem of the Arab-Israeli dispute was essential.

1 Mar.—The British Ambassador asked for a postponement of the Anglo-Egyptian talks owing to indisposition.

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Government Fall. Aly Maher's Government resigned following the resignation of Zaki Abd ul-Mutaal, the Finance Minister, and Ahmad Murtada al Maraghi Bey, Minister of the Interior, who were dissatisfied with a Government decision not to adjourn Parliament immediately and with the terms of a Government statement explaining the decision.

About seventy Egyptian prisoners rioted in the prison of the police H.Q. at Ismailia complaining about conditions. They were soon quelled by police firing warning shots.

2 Mar.—New Government. A new Government of independent politicians and experts assumed office under Ahmad Nagib al-Hilali, an ex-Wafd Minister and eminent lawyer who was expelled from the Wafd in November 1951. Zaki Abd ul-Mutaal Bey and Murtada al Maraghi Bey retained the portfolios of Finance and the Interior and Abd ul-Khaliq Hasuna Pasha, Minister of Education in the previous Government, became Foreign Minister.

In his letter to the King accepting office, Hilali Pasha said that he would seek to realize national aspirations on the basis of law and order and honest administration, and he laid great emphasis on the need to eliminate corruption from public life, asserting that even Parliamentary seats were being bought and sold by auction.

The Government closed the Fuad el Awal University indefinitely after students had demonstrated against the new Government.

3 Mar.—Parliament was adjourned for one month by royal decree.

5 Mar.—The Egyptian police unearthed a store of ammunition at Abu Sultan, south of Ismailia, and promptly informed the British Army. Two suspects were arrested and handed over to the British authorities.

FORMOSA. 1 Mar.—Japan. A conference to negotiate a peace treaty between the Chinese Nationalist Government and Japan opened in Taipeh.

FRANCE. 24 Feb.—Agreement with United States for increase of direct aid (*see North Atlantic Treaty*).

Defence. A communiqué issued after a meeting of the Council of Ministers said that expenditure required for defence amounted to 1,400,000 m. francs, made up as follows: 435,000 m. for overseas territories, mainly Indo-China; 830,000 m. for home defence; and 135,000 m. for civil expenses within the scope of N.A.T.O., such as airfields, communications etc. Of the total, 195,000 m. francs would be met by U.S. aid.

R.P.F. Speaking at a mass rally in Paris, Gen. de Gaulle surveyed the serious economic situation and said that in order to raise the money needed for rearmament and reconstruction a new kind of authority was required. He approved of allied solidarity but criticized the way in which it was organized and accused the Government of playing a subordinate role in its relations with other Powers.

25 Feb.—Finance Bill. The Government tabled amendments to the Finance Bill containing proposals for an increase by 15 per cent of all direct taxes and for a new economy plan to include an 8 per cent cut in re-equipment and a 3 per cent cut in reconstruction.

France (continued)

26 Feb.—The Finance Commission decided by 16 votes to 15 with 13 abstentions to recommend that the proposals should not even be considered.

27 Feb.—M. Faure, Prime Minister, gave an assurance to the Chamber that not a centime of the proposed new revenue would be used for other than military expenditure.

M. Faure tabled all the main articles of the Finance Bill as separate votes of confidence. He reminded deputies that they had already voted the expenses for which they now had to vote revenue and said that it was essential to stop as soon as possible the drain on the Treasury which was at the rate of 320 milliard francs a year.

28 Feb.—The Assembly passed by an overwhelming majority the item of the Finance Bill fixing the total of military expenditure at the level required by the N.A.T.O. agreement at Lisbon.

In a final appeal to the Assembly to vote the proposed additional taxation M. Faure gave a warning that if it were not voted the Budget would have to be balanced by inflationary and far more drastic measures.

29 Feb.—Fall of Government. The Government resigned after being defeated by 309 votes to 283 on the second motion of confidence to raise all taxes by 15 per cent. M. Faure's own party—the Radicals—as well as thirty-one right-wing Independents and four members of the M.R.P. joined the Communists, Gaullists, and twenty-four Peasant Party members in opposing the motion.

The Assembly approved by 408 votes to 101 an agreement between the Government and the Bank of France authorizing the Bank to buy Treasury bonds up to the value of 25,000 m. francs repayable on 20 March.

President Auriol asked M. Reynaud, right-wing Independent, to try to form a Government.

2 Mar.—M. Reynaud informed the President that he felt unable to carry out the task he had assigned him of forming a Government drawn from the same parties as the last but able to count on the support of both Gaullists and Socialists. His decision followed a refusal by the Socialists to be represented at a round-table conference with all other parties except the Communists to work out a programme for a broad-based Government of national union. The Socialist Party had refused on the ground of their objection in principle to collaboration with the Gaullists.

M. Reynaud issued a statement in which he blamed the failure of the two previous Premiers on the functioning of the Assembly, declaring that they now had a regime of Government by Assembly and not parliamentary government. He recalled the grave budgetary situation and said it was essential to find a majority of national union, and he suggested the formation of a small Cabinet of thirteen which would face the immediate crisis and revise the constitution. He proposed that any Government overthrown by the Assembly within a year should have the right of dissolution and that deputies should be deprived of the right to propose additional expenditure.

M. Pleven was asked by the President to try to form a Government but declined the task.

3 Mar.—M. Pinay (Independent Republican), the outgoing Minister of Public Works and Transport, was entrusted with the task of forming a Government.

Statement on France by Senator Connally (*see United States*).

5 Mar.—M. Pinay informed the President that he would stand for election as Prime Minister.

GERMANY. 22 Feb.—West Germany. Peace Treaty. The Government published a statement reiterating the need for holding democratic all-German elections prior to the signing of a German peace treaty and stating that, in contrast to the western Powers' assurance that a negotiated and not a dictated peace treaty would be concluded, neither the East German Government nor the Soviet Government had made any concrete proposals for German participation in the negotiations.

Defence Contribution. The text was published of the memorandum on a German defence contribution which had been submitted by the Federal Government to the executive committee of three of the N.A.T.O. Temporary Council Committee. The memorandum, which proposed a contribution of 10,800 m. marks, maintained that the help given to Berlin should be regarded as a defence contribution and it drew attention to the burden of 9,300,000 refugees and to the Federal Government's obligations to repay foreign debts and to make restitution to Nazi victims.

23 Feb.—The executive of the Social Democratic Party restated their objection to a German defence contribution and called on the Government to ask the Allies to explain their attitude to Herr Grotewohl's letter of 14 February proposing peace treaty talks.

24 Feb.—It was learned that the U.N. commission to investigate whether conditions for free elections existed in east and west Germany had written to the chairman of the council of the Allied High Commissioners at Bonn and to the chairman of the Soviet Control Commission proposing discussions with them on 17 March.

25 Feb.—German Unity. The Allied High Commission announced that in accordance with the Federal Government's request it had sent a draft of the electoral law passed by the Bonn Parliament to the three Governments represented in the Commission, to the Soviet Control Commission for forwarding to the Soviet and East German Governments, and to the U.N. Secretary-General for the attention of the U.N. German Elections Commission.

Berlin. The west Berlin Senate appointed the following three representatives to meet the U.N. German Elections Commission: Professor Reuter, senior burgomaster, Dr Schreiber, burgomaster, and Senator Conrad.

26 Feb.—Statement on German defence contribution (*see North Atlantic Treaty Organization*).

27 Feb.—West Germany. Defence Contribution. Professor Erhard, Minister for Economics, gave an assurance in a speech at

Germany (continued)

Hanover that the defence contribution agreed at Lisbon would not lead to new taxes.

The Social Democratic party issued a statement calculating that the defence contribution, with a basic payment of 850 m. marks plus the additional sums, would total 12,400 m. marks and would mean economic and social ruin for Germany and plunge her into inflation.

Mr McCloy, U.S. High Commissioner, published his quarterly report to the State Department on the last three months of 1951. In it he declared that the Russian zone propaganda for 'free elections' was wholly deceitful and that four-Power supervision would mean the reintroduction of the Soviet veto.

28 Feb.—East Germany. Elections. The Government issued a statement declaring that the proposal of the U.N. commission for a meeting to discuss elections in Germany had been brought to the Cabinet's notice and that there was no reason for the Cabinet to alter their attitude which had been made clear by their representatives before the United Nations in Paris.

Debts. An international conference on German external debts opened in London.

West Germany. Kemritz. Dr Dehler, Minister of Justice, declared in the Bundestag that the Americans had broken their promise to give the Germans a full report on the case of Hans Kemritz (a German who, while serving as an agent for both Americans and Russians at the end of the war, had handed over Germans into Russian custody and who was later taken into U.S. protective custody). Several speakers declared that co-operation with the western Powers would be threatened if the case were not cleared up or if the Allies committed any similar 'gross interference'.

1 Mar.—Heligoland was officially returned to the Federal Republic by the British authorities.

The Federal Government asked the Allied High Commission to invite the U.N. Commission to come to Bonn on 17 March. Herr Kaiser, Minister of All-German Affairs said he hoped the Commission would go on to Berlin later.

2 Mar.—After a two-day congress of trade union executives and local representatives a statement was issued announcing the unions' decision to ask the Federal Government to dissolve parliament and hold new elections before any German contribution was made to western defence.

Over a thousand inhabitants of the mainland opposite Knechtsand sandbank signed an appeal to the Federal Chancellor to reject the British request for the sandbank as an alternative target to Heligoland.

3 Mar.—East Germany. The Government announced, after a special meeting, that it desired a clear answer from Bonn on whether or not it was in favour of an accelerated peace treaty for Germany.

Berlin: Traffic Restrictions. East German sentries on the Soviet zone border reimposed traffic restrictions, detaining sixty barges and passing lorries at the rate of five an hour instead of the usual fifteen. Barge traffic to west Berlin was cut to less than half. The east German

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authorities stated that the Rothensee canal lock was under repair.

4 Mar.—Berlin. The east Berlin authorities cut west Berlin's supply of electric power, thereby terminating a long-standing arrangement under which west Berlin received electricity in return for a similar amount of current supplied from Hamburg to the *Land* of Mecklenburg. The reason given for the move was that east Berlin could no longer spare the current. The West German Government retaliated by cutting an equal amount of current from Hamburg to Mecklenburg.

West German-U.K. Trade Agreement (*see Great Britain*).

5 Mar.—East-West Trade. The resumed negotiations on east-west trade broke down. An east German statement said that only fulfilment of the moribund trade agreement would satisfy the East German Government.

GREAT BRITAIN. 21 Feb.—Defence. The Prime Minister presented the annual 'Statement on Defence' to Parliament as a White Paper (Cmd. 8,475). It estimated total defence expenditure for 1952-3 at £1,462,200,000 of which it was calculated that about £85 m. would be found from U.S. aid, making a net expenditure of £1,377,200,000. This represented an increase of £245,700,000 over net expenditure for 1951-2 (which according to a revised estimate was calculated at £1,131,500,000), but a reduction of £123 m. on the planned total of £1,500 m. at 1950 prices in spite of a rise in prices by about one-tenth since 1950. The statement said that the £4,700 m. three-year programme begun in April 1951 would take more than three years to achieve owing to difficulties in obtaining labour, materials, and machine tools and owing to the economic position of the country. The total of men and women in the armed forces was estimated to reach 857,100 on 1 April but about 23,000 additional men would be brought in during the year. The statement gave details of the estimated expenditures of the different Ministries and of their programmes.

22 Feb.—Guatemalan Note re British Honduras (*see Guatemala*).

25 Feb.—Meat agreement with New Zealand (*see New Zealand*).

26 Feb.—Far Eastern Policy. An opposition motion which expressed approval of the Government's Far Eastern policy as stated by Mr Eden, the Foreign Secretary, but censured Mr Churchill for not having given adequate expression to this policy when in the United States, was defeated in the House by 318 votes to 285. During the debate Mr Churchill assured the House that the Government were following the policy of the previous administration with regard to Korea and relations between Great Britain and China and he again denied that any secret commitments had been entered into during his visit to Washington. He said he believed there was a conviction on both sides of the Atlantic that nothing could be more foolish than to become involved in a full-scale war with China and nothing less useful or fruitful than for Gen. Chiang Kai-shek 'to plunge on to the mainland'. He told the House that the Labour Government had agreed during 1951 that in the event of heavy air attacks from bases in China on the U.N. forces in Korea they would associate themselves with action not confined to Korea.

Great Britain—continued

British contribution to N.A.T.O. in aircraft and to infra-structure programme (see *North Atlantic Treaty Organization*).

27 Feb.—Civil Expenditure. The Vote on Account for 1952-3 was presented to Parliament. It gave the total of Civil Estimates and Estimates for the Revenue Departments—together with the Estimate for the Ministry of Defence—as £2,553,407,415, which was a reduction of over £235 m. on expenditure for 1951-2. This figure, together with the Defence Estimates (excluding Ministry of Defence) of £1,359,900,000, brought the total estimated expenditure for 1952-3 to £3,913,307,415.

28 Feb.—Korea. Mr Attlee, Opposition Leader, issued a statement in which he referred to Mr Churchill's disclosure in the House the previous day that the Labour Government had during 1951 agreed with the U.S. Government on action to be taken outside Korea in certain circumstances. The statement explained that the action agreed upon was, that in the event of heavy air attacks on U.N. forces from bases on the far side of the Yalu River, attacks on those airfields would be allowed.

N.A.T.O. Conference, Lisbon. Mr Eden, Foreign Secretary, made a statement to the House on the results of the North Atlantic Council meeting in Lisbon (see p. 149). He described the agreement on Germany's defence contribution as a major step, not only in the strengthening of western defence, but also in the establishment of a new Europe, and he explained that the monthly payment of 850 m. deutschmarks would cover local occupation costs as well as Germany's initial contribution to the E.D.C. Germany would also have to meet certain N.A.T.O. type expenditure, including defence costs in Berlin, totalling about one milliard deutschmarks. Mr Eden said that agreement had also been reached on a solution of the problem of security safeguards for Germany. He said he was unable to reveal details but the broad conception was that the six E.D.C. Powers would jointly agree where orders for all military material would be placed. He explained, in answer to a question, that of the fifty divisions mentioned in a Lisbon statement as the military provision for 1952, only a certain proportion would be active divisions and the others reserve.

Austrian Peace Treaty. The Governments of the United Kingdom, France, and the United States issued a joint declaration expressing serious concern that, owing to the failure of the Soviet deputy to attend a meeting of the deputies fixed for 21 January, discussions for the conclusion of a peace treaty with Austria had been frustrated. They recalled the three-Power Moscow declaration of 1 November 1943 promising Austria her freedom and independence, and said that in spite of 258 meetings of the deputies Austria was still subjected to foreign occupation. The three Powers shared the Austrian desire to see such a situation terminated and were therefore urgently examining new proposals which would enable Austria to regain full independence.

Germany. An international conference on German external debts opened in London.

29 Feb.—N.A.T.O. Admiral McCormick, Supreme Allied Commander, Atlantic, arrived in London for discussions.

3 Mar.—Hong Kong Disturbances. Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, made a statement in the House giving further details of the disturbances of 1 March in Hong Kong (*see Hong Kong*).

4 Mar.—Anglo-German Trade Agreement. A new trade agreement for the calendar year 1952 was concluded in London with the Federal German Government. It provided for increases in certain quotas of German imports from the United Kingdom and the Colonies while the quotas for U.K. imports from Germany were for the most part based on the 1950 or 1951 agreements. The Federal Government substantially increased the quantities of steel available for export to the United Kingdom.

Central African Federation. In a debate in the Commons on Central African federation Mr Griffiths, the former Labour Colonial Secretary, said that the exclusion of African representation from the London talks had created an unfortunate impression in the free territories, and the decision to advance the London conference to April instead of holding it in July had created fears among Africans that federation was being rushed. He said their main fears were that federation might lead to amalgamation with a consequent loss of protectorate status, and to loss of land and a slowing-down in the political development of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Mr Lyttelton, Colonial Secretary, replying, said the conference had been advanced to April in order to produce as soon as possible a draft constitution which would provide safeguards on these matters. He announced that the Government intended holding a second conference in July in which the Governments concerned would take part before the draft constitution was ratified or abandoned. In regard to African representation, he explained that he had asked the Governors of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland to approach the African Representative Council and the African Protectorate Council to meet his colleagues and himself in London before the April conference began. Both were fully representative of African opinion.

Defence. The Opposition tabled an amendment to the Government's resolution on defence expressing no confidence in the Government's capacity to carry out the policy set out in the White Paper on defence. At a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party a wider amendment challenging the scope and priority of the whole programme, which was put forward by supporters of Mr Bevan, was defeated.

5 Mar.—The official Opposition amendment to the Government motion on defence was defeated in the House by 314 votes to 219. About fifty to sixty Labour followers of Mr Bevan defied a three-line Whip and abstained. The Government motion approving its defence policy outlined in the White Paper was then carried by 313 votes to 55, the members of the Opposition front bench abstaining and the followers of Mr Bevan opposing the motion.

During the debate Mr Churchill, Prime Minister, said he could not claim that the White Paper's programme went as far as the Socialist Government's proposals. This was partly due to the short fall in deliveries of contractors but also to the Government's decision to increase the

Great Britain (*continued*)

emphasis on exports at the expense of the speed of the rearmament programme in view of the country's serious financial position. After reviewing the existing state of the three Services and describing measures taken to improve the Army and to re-establish the Home Guard, he declared that his most serious concern was with air power and that he had directed that 'super-priority' should be given to the production of the latest types of fighter aircraft. He said he relied on the overwhelming power of the United States in atomic bombs to provide a deterrent to acts of aggression while a western defence front was being built up, but he repeated in detail the reasons he gave two years earlier why he did not believe war was imminent or inevitable.

Mr Shinwell, for the Opposition, suggested that other countries should play an equal part in western defence and that unless they provided more equipment speedily there was no hope of building up fifty divisions in 1952 or in 1953. Mr Crossman, who spoke for the dissident Labour group, argued that the whole basis on which rearmament had been based had been knocked out and that the question ought to be reconsidered in terms of the imminent bankruptcy of the free world. He maintained that the armaments programme had ruined the country economically and did not give protection.

GREECE. 29 Feb.—Italy. Mr Venizelos, Foreign Minister, flew to Rome for political and economic discussions.

1 Mar.—Communism. Eight Greek Communists, including one woman, were sentenced to death by an Athens court-martial for espionage and high treason. Four other accused received life sentences and ten others terms ranging from one to twenty years. The court found that they were members of a spy organization transmitting military information to Rumania.

5 Mar.—N.A.T.O. Gen. Eisenhower arrived in Athens.

GUATEMALA. 22 Feb.—British Honduras. A Note in reply to the British Note of 19 February was handed to the British Minister. It declared that the people of British Honduras did not want to remain in the British Commonwealth and did not want to join a Caribbean federation and that such a federation was strongly objected to by all five members of the organization of Central American States (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua). The Note denied that acceptance of federation by the Legislative Council of Belize would signify an expression of the wishes of the people.

HONG KONG. 1 Mar.—Disturbances occurred in Kowloon when a Chinese Communist 'comfort' mission, which was expected with relief supplies for Chinese who had lost their homes in the Tung Tao village fire, failed to arrive by train from Canton. The large crowd of about 10,000 which had gathered to meet the mission started a Communist demonstration which led to disorders in which fourteen persons were injured. Many arrests were made.

2 Mar.—The Government issued a statement declaring that a few weeks previously a group of persons from Canton calling themselves the 'comfort mission' had made unofficial approaches to ascertain whether they could enter Hong Kong in order to distribute aid to the victims of the Tung Tao village fire (all of whom had been resettled by the Government). It had been made clear that permission to the mission as such would not be granted, and on 1 March Government sources had been informed that the mission's proposed visit had been postponed. The statement laid the blame for the riots on the Federation of Trade Unions for keeping the rank and file of the unions and others in ignorance of the position.

3 Mar.—Statement on riots by Mr Lyttelton (*see Great Britain*).

5 Mar.—**Budget.** Sir Alexander Grantham, the Governor, outlined in his budget speech to the Legislative Council large-scale development schemes and a programme of social welfare which he said were a measure of the Government's confidence in the future. He told the Council that the volume of trade in 1951 was a million tons less than in 1950 as a result of the Chinese intervention in Korea and the consequent embargoes, and the position had been aggravated by Japanese competition in export markets. In spite of this revenue had held up well and the revised estimate at \$291 m. (Hong Kong) was nearly \$44 m. above the original estimate. He said Hong Kong was sheltering at least a million refugees. The Financial Secretary said that the net surplus for the year ended March 1951 was \$38,375,000. Estimated expenditure for the year 1952-3 was \$285 m., leaving a deficit of \$50,000 to which \$600,000 for squatter resettlement must be added.

INDIA. 24 Feb.—**Nepal.** It was announced that the Government had agreed to a request of the Nepalese Government to send a military mission to Nepal to assist in the training and reorganization of the Nepalese Army.

28 Feb.—**Commission.** Mr Nehru, Prime Minister, defined at a press conference his attitude toward Communism. While expressing sympathy with certain Communist theories and objectives he considered Marxism to be out of date and reactionary. He declared the tactics of the Communist Party of India to be utterly disruptive and governed by extra-territorial allegiance and he said he would fight every disruptive practice.

Nepal. Mr Nehru repudiated allegations of interference by India in Nepal's internal affairs and said that India was interested in Nepal's economic development. The two countries were closely associated in matters of defence and foreign affairs but were not tied by any formal agreement. It was at the request of the Nepal Government that an Indian military mission had left for Nepal on 27 February.

INDO-CHINA. 21 Feb.—The native garrison of a fortified post fifty miles north-west of Saigon which had been encircled by the rebels was relieved by a mobile column of French Union troops.

24 Feb.—Gen. Salan, French C.-in-C., announced the withdrawal of

Indo-China (continued)

French and Viet-Nameese forces from Hoabinh and from Colonial Highway No. 6 which linked it with the inner part of the Red River delta. He claimed that by inflicting severe losses on the enemy in their attempts to recapture Hoabinh—he estimated these at 7,000 killed and 15,000 wounded—the main purpose of its occupation had been achieved. He also said that its retention would no longer deprive the Viet-Minh of a route into Annam as they had constructed a new road sixty miles further west through the jungle. He said French Union casualties for the whole operation of occupation and withdrawal were: 394 killed, 835 wounded, and 304 missing.

25 Feb.—It was announced that the evacuation from Hoabinh, which was begun on 22 February, had been successfully completed.

M. Letourneau, French Minister for the Associated States, stated in Saigon that France could not on principle reject the slightest opportunity of ending hostilities in Indo-China but it was up to the Viet-Minh to make the first move towards a settlement and the Government of the States of Indo-China would have to be associated with any talks. The Minister expressed satisfaction with the existing situation and said that there was no need to increase the strength of the French expeditionary force. French policy was to allow the Viet-Nameese army to assume a larger part in defending the country.

26 Feb.—During the night of 25–26 February rebels blew up a bridge over the River Vaico on a road linking Saigon with the provinces of southern Viet Nam.

27 Feb.—French Union forces completed a six-day mopping-up operation in the Plain of Reeds, west of Saigon, during which an area of 770 square miles was cleared and more than 200 rebels killed.

INDONESIA. 23 Feb.—Government Resignation. Dr Sukiman and his Cabinet resigned as a result of differences of opinion over the acceptance of U.S. aid under the Mutual Security Act.

2 Mar.—Suspension of Netherlands-Indonesian talks on Western New Guinea (*see Netherlands*).

IRAQ. 23 Feb.—Gen. Sir Brian Robertson, C.-in-C. British Middle East Forces, left Baghdad on the conclusion of discussions with the Iraqi Government on collective security and the supply of war material and equipment.

ISRAEL. 22 Feb.—Mapam Party. Two leading members of the party—Mr Lifschitz and Mr Lamdam, deputy Speaker of the Knesset—resigned from the party and announced their intention of forming a new political group.

27 Feb.—U.S.S.R. The Prime Minister revealed in the Knesset the text of Israel's Note to Russia sent on 12 December 1951 in reply to the Russian *démarche* to Israel and the Arab States on the proposed Middle East Command. The Note stated that as Israel's main security problem was the threat from the Arab States, she considered all

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members of the United Nations to be bound to act practically and energetically to remove this threat. The Note gave an assurance that Israel would not take part in any aggressive act against Russia or any other peace-loving State (see also Vol. VII, No. 24, p. 741).

U.S. Aid. An agreement for a grant-in-aid to Israel of \$50 m. was signed in Tel Aviv by the Foreign Minister and the U.S. Ambassador.

ITALY. 25 Feb.—U.S.S.R.: Italy and the United Nations. A Soviet Note was received in reply to the Italian Note of 8 February. The Note declared that Russia had repeatedly proposed the admission of Italy to the United Nations together with other nations. It blamed the failure to admit Italy on the western Powers because of their opposition to other States 'which are as much entitled to admission as Italy'.

Trieste. Signor De Gasperi, Prime Minister, rejected in Lisbon new proposals for a settlement of the Trieste problem which had been submitted by Marshal Tito through the Italian Ambassador to Rome (see p. 153).

29 Feb.—Greece. Mr Venizelos, Greek Foreign Minister, arrived in Rome for political and economic discussions.

JAPAN. 21 Feb.—Anti-U.S. Demonstrations. Communist-inspired demonstrations against the granting of military bases to the United States were staged in Tokio and twenty-five other places throughout the country to mark 'anti-colonization of Japan Day'. Property was damaged and twenty policemen injured.

23 Feb.—Further demonstrations against rearmament took place in which eleven police and one student received minor injuries.

Budget. The Finance Minister, Mr Ikeda, told a committee of Parliament that in the next budget £182 m. would be set aside for security, including £65 m. towards the cost of stationing U.S. forces in Japan, £54 m. for the National Police Reserve (the new army), £7,300,000 for the Maritime Safety Board (the new navy), and £56 m. for general items, such as communications.

24 Feb.—U.S.-Japanese Security Pact. The Opposition parties issued a joint statement protesting against the Government's action in closing the parliamentary debates on the administrative agreement being negotiated to put into force the U.S.-Japanese Security Pact. The statement demanded more information of the action U.S. forces in Japan would take in an emergency and accused the U.S. Congress of avoiding ratifying the peace treaty until details of the administrative agreement had been decided.

26 Jan.—United Kingdom. Discussions on measures to increase imports to Japan from the sterling area opened in Tokio between Japanese and U.K. representatives.

27 Jan.—The Opposition parties criticized the Government's conduct of the negotiations for an administrative pact with the United States and introduced a non-confidence Bill against Mr Okazaki, the Minister of State who represented Japan in the negotiations, for concluding the agreement in secrecy.

Japan (*continued*)

Australian ratification of Japanese peace treaty (*see Australia*).

28 Feb.—**U.S.-Japanese Administrative Agreement.** Representatives of Japan and the United States signed in Tokio an administrative agreement covering the conditions on which U.S. troops would be based in Japan after implementation of the peace treaty. It provided for American jurisdiction over all U.S. troops and attached civilians in Japan and specified that upon ratification by the U.S. Senate of a similar agreement under N.A.T.O., the United States would, at Japan's option, conclude immediately with Japan an agreement on criminal jurisdiction corresponding to the N.A.T.O. jurisdiction provisions. The agreement provided for the creation of a joint Japanese-American committee to negotiate for each 'facility and area' to be used by U.S. troops and for an annual Japanese contribution of \$155 m. towards the cost of garrisoning U.S. troops.

1 Mar.—Peace treaty conference with Chinese Nationalist Government (*see Formosa*).

KOREA. 21 Feb.—After a two-day battle South Korean Marines drove off a Communist amphibious force of about 1,000 men which had attempted to capture the island of Yangdo off the north-east coast of Korea. Many of the enemy's sampans were sunk.

22 Feb.—Gen. Ridgway's H.Q. announced that sixty-nine Korean prisoners and one U.S. soldier had been killed and 142 prisoners and twenty-three Americans wounded in a riot at a civilian internment camp on the island of Kojedo, south-west of Pusan, on 18 February. The statement said the riot was Communist-inspired and apparently designed to frustrate the weeding out of non-Communists.

23 Feb.—The Communist delegation protested about the deaths of seventy-four Korean civilians and the wounding of 139 others during the riot at the internment camp on Kojedo Island.

Peking radio charged the United Nations with adopting germ warfare in Korea.

25 Feb.—The U.N. delegates proposed that there should be only four neutrals on the truce supervision commission and they offered to withdraw their nomination of Norway if the Communists would withdraw their nomination of Soviet Russia.

26 Feb.—The Communist delegation refused to consider the U.N. proposal to have four neutral nations supervising a truce instead of six.

27 Feb.—Gen. Ridgway's H.Q. issued a statement declaring the Communist allegations that the allies had adopted germ warfare to be false and to have been made in order to distract attention from the fact that Communist obstruction was postponing an armistice and to conceal their inadequacies in dealing with seasonal epidemics.

The Communist delegation were told at the truce talks that the riot on Kojedo Island was no concern of theirs and that it had occurred not among prisoners of war but among civilian internees led by Communist agitators.

29 Feb.—Admiral Joy, chief U.N. delegate at the armistice talks,

told the press that during the eight months of the talks the Communists had built up their defence lines to a depth of twenty miles while the Allies had lost their military advantage and had to negotiate from a position of stalemate. He considered that military pressure was the only way to expedite an armistice.

The U.N. delegates at the truce talks said their rejection of Russia as a neutral truce supervisor was final and they would never agree to forced repatriation of prisoners.

U.N. tanks made two attacks on the western front in the Kumsong area and Communist troops made two attacks on the eastern front.

1 Mar.—The Communists rejected U.N. proposals for an immediate exchange of sick and wounded prisoners and for arrangements for the delivery of Red Cross parcels to prisoner camps.

2 Mar.—The Communists rejected a United Nations proposal to make an armistice agreement on prisoners immediately effective so that joint Red Cross teams could visit the camps on both sides.

U.N. representatives read out at the sub-committee meetings a statement by the U.N. Command expressing concern at the Communists' violation of the agreements under which all prisoners were to be accounted for and only nations acceptable to both sides were to be nominated as neutral supervisors of a truce. The statement said that the Command doubted whether attempts to reach agreement were worth while and that it was pointless to reach agreement if the Communists intended to repudiate such agreements at their convenience. The Communist delegates denied having broken any agreements.

Allied tanks raided hill positions north and north-west of Chorwon, and an allied infantry attack with artillery support was made in the same area.

3 Mar.—Moscow Radio, Peking Radio, and Pyongyang Radio repeated the Communist charges that U.S. planes had dropped fleas carrying bubonic plague over North Korea. Peking Radio said the plague was spreading 'as far and fast as the rats that carry it' and that the American aim seemed to be to spread it as widely as possible.

The United States Defence Department said in Washington that the plague was the result of a collapse of the Communist medical services.

4 Mar.—Mr Acheson's repudiation of Communist charges of germ warfare (*see United States*).

5 Mar.—The United Nations asked the Communists to account for 174 U.N. prisoners of war not on the Communist list of 11,150 which had been given to the United Nations on 18 December 1951. The names had been learned from Communist broadcasts and publications and from prisoners' letters.

Over north-west Korea five MIG15s were shot down.

LIBYA. 21 Feb.—Thirteen people were wounded, of whom one died later, during disturbances in Tripoli arising out of the election. The police opened fire and used tear gas to dispel the demonstrators.

The H.Q. of the Congress Party in Tripoli was raided by the police and documents seized.

Libya (continued)

22 Feb.—The Government arrested and deported to Egypt Bescir Bey Sadawi, leader of the Congress Party, together with his immediate followers. The action was taken because the Government considered the recent disorders to have been instigated by the Congress Party in an attempt to carry out a pre-election threat made by Bescir Bey to refute with violence if necessary the verdict of the polls. (Incomplete results of the election showed that the Congress Party had won 8 seats out of 55).

MALAYA. 21 Feb.—Mr MacGillivray, Deputy High Commissioner, announced in a broadcast that he would reorganize and co-ordinate the administration so as to ensure efficient and immediate service.

29 Feb.—Reports reaching Penang said that a new Communist offensive had begun in Southern Perak against Malay villages. According to captured documents the Communists were aiming to dominate the Malayan peasantry, to disarm the kampong guards, and to kill all Malay special constables.

A Chinese family of six, including three children, was hacked to death by a Malay mob near Sungei Bakap in Wellesley province after Chinese terrorists had murdered a Malay special constable.

2 Mar.—The Government announced its decision to merge the War Council with the Federal Executive Council on the principle that the state of emergency affected every activity of the Government.

3 Mar.—Terrorists blew up a passenger train in Negri Sembilan, killing seven people and injuring fifteen.

MALTA. 21 Feb.—**Wage Award.** The Legislative Assembly passed a resolution proposed by the Prime Minister protesting against the Admiralty's decision to grant a cost-of-living bonus of 10s. to employees. (The General Workers' Union had asked for the 14s. awarded to Government employees in January by a local arbitration tribunal). An amendment submitted by Mr Mintoff, leader of the Opposition, proposing *inter alia* that, until the award had been agreed to, the Prime Minister should withhold his consent to the use of Malta as a N.A.T.O. base, was defeated.

22 Feb.—About 10,000 employees of the Admiralty, War Office, and Air Ministry came out on strike against the Admiralty's decision.

1 Mar.—About 1,000 port workers handling service cargoes joined the strike.

3 Mar.—British servicemen began unloading service cargoes.

5 Mar.—Dockyard strikers demonstrated in the streets of Valetta causing damage to premises and cars.

MEXICO. 22 Feb.—**U.S. Aid.** The suspension of U.S.-Mexican talks on military aid for Mexico was announced in Washington.

MIGRATION CONFERENCE. 24 Feb.—A provisional inter-governmental committee for the movement of migrants from Europe, representing seventeen nations, ended a conference in Geneva after

approving a plan to move 137,500 migrants overseas before the end of 1952. The committee adopted a budget of \$41,350,660.

NEPAL. 24 Feb.—Agreement on Indian military mission for Nepal (*see India*).

28 Feb.—Statement on Nepal by Mr Nehru (*see India*).

NETHERLANDS. 2 Mar.—Indonesia: Western New Guinea.

A joint statement issued by the Netherlands and Indonesian delegations to the talks on Western New Guinea announced that the talks had been temporarily suspended following the Indonesian Government crisis of 23 February. No agreement on a recommendation to Governments had yet been reached.

NEW ZEALAND. 25 Feb.—Great Britain. The Prime Minister announced an agreement with the British Government to resume chilled beef shipments. Dominion producers would receive £120 a ton for first quality chilled beef.

NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. 22 Feb.—European Defence Community. The Council, meeting in Lisbon, approved a report presented by M. Schuman, French Foreign Minister, setting out the principles of the European Defence Community which had been agreed upon by the Paris conference of six nations (France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, and Germany). This showed that the agreed aim was to establish an integrated land force of forty-three 'groups', roughly corresponding to divisions of 13,000 men, to which Germany would contribute twelve groups. In war-time, each division would be increased by about 2,000 men. The basic army unit would be the army corps of 80,000 men. In the air forces the largest national unit would be the group of about seventy-five aircraft placed under an integrated tactical command headquarters. The senior administrative authority controlling the integrated forces would be a commission of nine, appointed for six years, which would work in much the same way as a National Ministry of Defence and would be responsible for training, equipment, and the preparation of supply programmes. It had been agreed that preparations for the raising of forces should be made and carried out in the interval between the signature of the treaty and its implementation. The conference had also agreed to set up a research group for armament questions.

The political authority would be a permanent council of six, one from each State, whose approval would be required for certain of the commission's decisions. Most of the council's decisions would require unanimous votes under a system giving greater weight to countries providing the largest contributions in money and manpower. There would also be a political assembly whose members, like those of the Schuman Plan Assembly, would be elected by national Parliaments and whose main task would be to examine the Defence Community's budget estimates and to approve or reject reports from the commission.

North Atlantic Council (*continued*)

It would also prepare plans for establishing a directly-elected Assembly designed eventually to function as one of the principal organs of a European federation. There would also be a court of justice to adjudicate in disputes between member-nations.

The E.D.C. would have a common budget subscribed to by national exchequers and with foreign military aid funds. The national contributions from each member would be determined in the Ministerial Council by unanimous vote to safeguard the sovereign rights of member-Parliaments, but expenditure would be decided by a two-thirds vote.

Relations Between N.A.T.O. and the E.D.C. The Council also approved the text of a protocol defining the relations between N.A.T.O. and the European Defence Community for addition to the North Atlantic Treaty after the signature of the treaty setting up the E.D.C. The protocol contained reciprocal guarantees between members of N.A.T.O. and members of E.D.C. equal to the guarantees given by the signatories of the North Atlantic Treaty to one another. It provided for reciprocal consultation, and for combined meetings of the Council of N.A.T.O. and the Council of E.D.C. whenever either body decided that it was desirable and whenever any of the parties to either organization considered that the integrity, political independence, or security of any of them was threatened, or that there was a threat to the continued existence or integrity of N.A.T.O. or E.D.C.

The Council further approved a report presented by Mr Eden, British Foreign Secretary, on the progress of negotiations to replace the Occupation Statute in Germany by contractual agreements and a report by the N.A.T.O. Military Committee approving the military effectiveness of the proposed E.D.C.

23 Feb.—The Council adopted a resolution, based on the report of the Temporary Council Committee, which formulated a plan of defensive preparations, with economic action to match, for 1952, and a definite programme for the two following years.

24 Feb.—A communiqué was issued which stated that member nations would provide in 1952 'approximately fifty divisions in appropriate conditions of combat readiness and 4,000 operational aircraft in Europe—including the United Kingdom—as well as strong naval forces'. The communiqué, which did not reveal any details of the plan of action contained in the Temporary Council Committee's resolution, said that the Council had recommended economy in the use of resources and the elimination of less essential defence activities; the improvement, by methods worked out by the T.C.C., of the efficiency of national forces; and a further development of equipment supply planning combined with a system of priorities. The Council had also recommended economic measures to encourage general expansion; to increase the production of scarce raw materials, and if necessary control their use; to prevent inflation; to facilitate the mobility of labour between member countries; to distribute more fairly the internal burden of defence; and to maintain essential imports, particularly by increasing dollar earnings of European countries.

France. After discussions between Mr Snyder, Secretary to the U.S. Treasury, and M. Faure, French Prime Minister, it was agreed that France should mount twelve divisions instead of fourteen during 1952, and reduce her air force programme. These reductions left a difference of 300,000 m. francs between France's commitments and her maximum possible contribution as estimated by the T.C.C., and the U.S. Government agreed to help make this up by transferring part of the unexpended aid allocated to France for 1952 from the indirect to the direct category and by increasing 'off-shore' purchases.

25 Feb.—The ninth session of the Council ended and a communiqué summarizing the sessions achievements was issued. Besides the decisions recorded above, it announced: (1) that agreement had been reached on the financing of a further portion of the infra-structure programme for airfields, communications, and headquarters; (2) that an international N.A.T.O. secretariat would be set up in Paris and a Secretary-General appointed. The Council would in future function in permanent session through the appointment of permanent representatives and would assume the functions previously performed by the Council of Deputies, the Defence Production Board, and the Financial and Economic Board. The Temporary Council Committee would cease to exist; (3) that the Council had adopted a report of the Atlantic Community Committee which had emphasized the importance of economic co-operation, the expansion and liberalization of trade, and the importance of close co-operation with other bodies, especially O.E.E.C.

The Council also issued a declaration emphasizing once more that N.A.T.O. had been created as 'a shield against aggression', that its first aim was peace, and that the armed forces being built up would only be used defensively.

NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION. 21 Feb.—

Channel Command. N.A.T.O. headquarters in London announced the following appointments: Admiral Sir Arthur Power, C.-in-C. Portsmouth and C.-in-C. Home Station (Designate), to be first Allied C.-in-C., Channel Command; Air Marshal Stevens, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Coastal Command, and C.-in-C. Air, Eastern Atlantic (Designate), to be Allied Air C.-in-C., Channel Command. The N.A.T.O. statement said that the Chiefs of Naval Staff of Britain, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom would form a Channel Committee acting as a local agency of the Standing Group.

26 Feb.—Three-Power Talks. German Defence Contribution.

Following talks between Mr Eden, Mr Acheson, and M. Schuman—the British, U.S., and French Foreign Ministers—it was announced that the Federal German Government had agreed to base its defence contribution in the N.A.T.O. year 1952-3 on the figure recommended by the executive bureau of the Temporary Council Committee (11,250 m. marks). The statement explained that this meant that, in addition to those expenditures for defence purposes in the Federal Republic's regular public budgets, there would be an average monthly defence contribution of 850 m. D-marks following the establishment of the

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (*continued*)

European Defence Community. It was proposed that future contributions would be established under the same principles as applied to all member countries. The three Occupying Powers undertook to maintain occupation costs at the lowest possible level in the period preceding the establishment of the E.D.C.

British Contribution. It was made known that Britain would provide at least one third of the 4,000 aircraft planned to be ready for N.A.T.O. in 1952. The British share of the infra-structure programme would be about £20 m. in addition to money already spent on air bases in the United Kingdom.

Mediterranean Exercises. About 200 British, U.S., French, and Italian ships and hundreds of aircraft began a nine-day training exercise in the Mediterranean under the direction of Admiral Carney, C.-in-C., Allied Forces in Southern Europe.

PAKISTAN. 21 Feb.—Language Question. Rioting broke out among students in Dacca who were demonstrating against the decision to make Urdu the only State language and were demanding that both Bengali and Urdu should be State languages. The police opened fire and charged the crowd with lathis.

22 Feb.—After a second day of rioting in Dacca over the language question, the Legislative Assembly of East Bengal recommended to the Pakistan Constituent Assembly that Bengali should also be a State language.

23 Feb.—Visit of Foreign Minister to Egypt (*see Egypt*).

27 Feb.—The situation in Dacca was described as normal again. Casualties in the riots were stated to be eight killed and 100 injured. Twenty-eight arrests had been made.

2 Mar.—Sporadic attacks were reported to be continuing in East Bengal.

PERSIA. 4 Mar.—Mr Makki, chairman of the Mixed Oil Commission, urged Persians in a broadcast to show as much endurance of difficulties and austerities as the British and asserted that the Persian situation was less alarming than the British position, which was partly the result of lack of Persian oil. He said the Opposition was exaggerating difficulties wherever possible but victory in the oil struggle depended on endurance.

SIAM. 26 Feb.—The Government suspended rice exports to British territories because of difficulties which had arisen in trade talks with British representatives in Bangkok.

SOUTH AFRICA. 22 Feb.—Uranium Production. Mr Viljoen, Minister for Mines, told Parliament that a new agreement had been reached with the British and U.S. Governments providing for greater production by gold mines already producing uranium ore and for an invitation to other mines to instal uranium production plant financed with British and U.S. loans.

4 Mar.—Dr Malan, Prime Minister, intervening in a debate on a private member's motion proposing a greater union of South African States, including both the Rhodesias, said that the initiative for such a move must come from Rhodesia, which had rejected a similar proposal after the war. He said South Africa had a deep interest in what took place in the Rhodesias as they were a bulwark between South Africa and the pressure from farther north. They could, however, also become a bridge between the far north territories and the Union with all the dangers which this would involve. He strongly criticized the former British Labour Government for forcing political developments in the Gold Coast, claiming that the democratic system of western Europe had been applied while 90 per cent of the enfranchised population were illiterate. He regarded the step as disastrous so far as Africa and the Union were concerned, and said repercussions elsewhere had already been felt, for the Africans of Northern Rhodesia were demanding a similar constitution.

TUNISIA. 21 Feb.—A member of the Foreign Legion was shot dead in Kef.

22 Feb.—M. de Hautecloque, the Resident-General, returned to Tunis from Paris.

26 Feb.—Several arrests were made when about 400 youths demonstrated in Tunis against sentences imposed on students who had taken part in disorders at Sfax. (The sentences ranged from eight to ten days' imprisonment with fines of 20,000 francs.)

29 Feb.—Three bombs exploded in the centre of Tunis causing considerable damage.

2 Mar.—A train was derailed between Gafour and Sidi Ayed as a result of sabotage, causing injuries to six railwaymen.

TURKEY. 22 Feb.—Bulgarian protest against Turkey's admission to N.A.T.O. (*see Bulgaria*).

3 Mar.—N.A.T.O. Gen. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander, Allied Forces in Europe, arrived in Ankara on a visit.

UNITED STATES. 22 Feb.—**Mexico.** The suspension of U.S.-Mexican talks on military aid for Mexico was announced in Washington.

23 Feb.—Agreement with France for increase of direct aid (*see North Atlantic Treaty Organization*).

Rubber. The Government announced the return of the natural rubber trade to private hands.

27 Feb.—Grant-in-aid to Israel (*see Israel*).

29 Feb.—**U.S.S.R.: Katyn Massacre.** The Soviet Embassy sent a Note to the State Department rejecting an invitation to put the Russian case before the House sub-committee investigating the Katyn Forest massacre of Polish war prisoners. The Note stated that the United States had raised no objections to the conclusions of 'the special commission' which in 1944 had established that the Katyn crime 'had been the work of Hitlerite criminals', and it asserted that the only possible

United States (continued)

purpose of the reinvestigation of the case must be to slander the Soviet Union and thus rehabilitate the 'Hitlerite criminals'.

Mr Acheson, Secretary of State, broadcasting on the London and Lisbon talks, said that their success would depend on how vigorously they were followed by further action. He appealed for support for the coming year's mutual security programme.

3 Mar.—France. After Mr Acheson had discussed the French crisis with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Connally, the chairman, told the press: 'If France does not do her utmost in her own defence she cannot justify large appropriations from the United States for both economic and military aid. France must be told that she cannot rely upon the United States to defend her and to hand out large sums of money to aid her from an economic standpoint. France must do her duty.'

4 Mar.—Korea. Mr Acheson issued a statement declaring that Communist charges that the United Nations were waging germ warfare in Korea were false, and that their purpose was to obstruct the truce negotiations. He challenged the Communists to submit their charges to impartial investigation.

President Truman broadcast a message to the peoples behind the iron curtain from the deck of the Voice of America's new floating transmitter, the coastguard cutter *Courier*. The message was immediately translated into forty-five languages. In it he said that the free nations of the world had undertaken to answer the Communist propaganda which was seeking to stir up fear and hatred and to set nation against nation. They would do so by beaming a 'campaign of truth' to people behind the iron curtain. They would use every means to bring the truth to peoples everywhere and to combat the propaganda of slavery. The aggressive plans of the Communist rulers were forcing the free nations to arm to defend themselves but it was not true that the United States was a hostile country bent on war. Their highest aim was peace and friendship and an end to the horrors of war, and there were no differences that could not be settled if the Communist rulers would turn from their senseless policy of hate and terror and follow the principles of peace.

Korea. Mr Allison, Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, said in an address delivered on his behalf in Philadelphia that U.S. policy was to confine the conflict in Korea and not to widen the scope of the war.

Military Training Bill. The House decided by 236 votes to 162 to send back to committee the universal military training Bill under which all youths of eighteen would have been liable to six months' military training followed by seven and a half years on the reserve.

5 Mar.—Malaya. Mr Acheson, Secretary of State, made a statement to the press in which he welcomed the British Government's directive of 4 February to the High Commissioner in Malaya and its reiteration of Britain's determination to defeat Communist terrorism, not only by military means but also by the adoption of an enlightened policy in regard to the people of Malaya. The statement recognized the importance

of Malaya's role in the free world and said that the struggle there was the concern not only of the west but of all free peoples, and that it represented a major contribution to the free world's common effort to halt Communism.

Washington Talks. Mr Acheson formally notified the House of Representatives that no troop commitments had been made during the talks between President Truman and Mr Churchill in January.

URUGUAY. 1 Mar.—New Constitution. Under the new constitution which came into effect, the Presidency of the Republic was replaced by a National Council of Government consisting of nine members, elected by a General Assembly of senators and deputies. It consisted of a permanent coalition of six members of the Government party—the Colorados—and three members of the Opposition—the Herreristas. Senator Trueba became its first chairman. The constitution also provided for a tribunal of five umpires to arbitrate in administrative disputes and for nine Ministers chosen by the National Council and responsible to it, though in practice the National Council would be responsible for policy and would direct the Ministers in the execution of legislation.

U.S.S.R. 25 Feb.—Note to Italy *re* admission to the United Nations (*see Italy*).

27 Feb.—Israeli Note *re* proposed Middle East Command (*see Israel*).

4 Mar.—Dominican charge of violation of territorial waters by Soviet submarines (*see Dominican Republic*).

YUGOSLAVIA. 2 Feb.—Church and State. Radio Belgrade quoted a Tanyug Agency report that the Government had ordered the Roman Catholic theological faculties at Zagreb and Lyubljana universities and the Orthodox faculty at Belgrade University to be wound up by 28 June. The official reason was to complete the separation of the Churches from the State as demanded by the constitution. The Churches would however be free to run independent theological colleges at their own expense with the possibility of limited aid from the State.

25 Feb.—Italian rejection of new Yugoslav proposals for Trieste (*see Italy*).

29 Feb.—Foreign Aid. It was announced that Yugoslavia would receive a final grant of \$45 m. aid under the tripartite aid agreement between Britain, France, and the United States. The American share would be \$29,250,000; that of Britain the equivalent in sterling of \$10,350,000; and that of France the equivalent in francs of \$5,400,000. The grant brought the total allocation of aid in the fiscal year to \$120 m. of which Britain contributed 23 per cent and France 12 per cent.

Trieste. Marshal Tito issued a statement revealing the latest proposals made to Italy in regard to Trieste. He regretted that Signor De Gasperi, at a press conference in Lisbon, had rejected the proposals and stated that Italian insistence on a settlement based on the tripartite

Yugoslavia (continued)

declaration of 1948, which advocated the return of the entire Free Territory to Italy, was quite unacceptable. The Yugoslav proposal was for the continued existence of a Free Territory as provided by the peace treaty with Italy but with the modification that this should be by direct agreement between Italy and Yugoslavia, who would administer the territory jointly. The governor would be changed every three years and appointed by the Yugoslav and Italian Governments alternately; a deputy governor would be appointed in the same way but would be an Italian when there was a Yugoslav governor and vice versa. A citizen from a third Power would be appointed director of public security by agreement.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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| Mar. 27 | Polling for Upper House in Indian General Election. |
| May 5 | Fifth Assembly of World Health Organization, Geneva. |
| 26 | Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg. |
| June 4 | I.L.O. Conference, Geneva. |
| Sept. 15 | Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg. |

